

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-21 are pending in the instant application.

The Examiner indicates that the claims 1-21 are allowable over the previously cited prior art. However, claims 1-21 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-37 of Roos et al. U.S. patent 5,699, 276.

The Examiner also has objected to some of the specification amendments (made on April 23, 2004) as introducing new matter. Further, the Examiner points out that the specification does not explicitly describe the nature of some of the steps in FIG. 6.

Summary of Applicant's Reply

Applicant appreciates Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-21. Applicant respectfully believes that no new matter was added by the amendments of April 23, 2004. However to expedite issuance of the claims, applicant has without prejudice amended the specification to delete the objected-to sentences. Applicant has also amended the specification to include additional description of the steps in FIG. 6 as required by the Examiner.

Further, as suggested by the Examiner, applicant encloses a terminal disclaimer to overcome the nonstatutory double patenting rejection of any claims that overlap with claims 1-37 of U.S. patent No. 5,699,276.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of which are requested. If there are any remaining issues to be resolved, the applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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